



State of New Jersey STATE PAROLE BOARD

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Media Release

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First GPS Violator Sentenced

Sex offender sentenced to 4 years for program violation.

Trenton, NJ—The first conviction resulting from a violation of New Jersey's innovative GPS sex offender tracking pilot program was handed down in Union County on Friday. Appearing in Elizabeth before Superior Court Judge Marianne Espinosa, Angel Martinez (DOB 5-19-1970, SBI 533853B) was convicted and sentenced to four years in state prison for violating the conditions of the sex offender tracking program.

"This conviction marks the first time the GPS sex offender tracking program has resulted in a new criminal conviction. The facts of this case clearly show that the GPS program is a valuable tool for law enforcement allowing our officers to detect and intercept an offender at the first signs of criminal behavior. This provides the public with greater protection from these sexual offenders," stated State Parole Board executive director Michael Dowling. "The application of the GPS system, in combination with a solid investigation, resulted in this offender being apprehended quickly."

On March 28, 2006 Martinez violated the GPS tracking program by leaving his residence without his assigned satellite tracking device. Martinez had slipped out of a bathroom window while parole officers were at his front door. Martinez was apprehended by parole officers later the same day and transported to the Union County jail. He was charged with a violation of the GPS program and theft of the GPS ankle transmitter.

Governor Codey signed the "Sex Offender Monitoring Pilot Project Act" (P.L. 2005, c. 189) into law last August. The act provides for the continuous satellite monitoring of up to 250 of the highest risk sexual offenders in New Jersey for two years. The State Parole Board, which supervises over 2,900 sexual offenders serving terms of community and parole supervision for life, carries out the monitoring. Currently, there are 82 sex offenders being monitored, and by the end of this calendar year 250 offenders will be enrolled. The chairman of the State Parole Board is to report to the Governor and the Legislature on the efficacy of the program at the conclusion of the two-year pilot program.

Martinez was convicted in 2000 of aggravated sexual assault, 2nd degree, and sentenced to five years in prison. He completed his sentence in 2002. In 2003 he was convicted of failing to register under Megan's Law and sentenced to one year. In 2004 he received another one-year sentence for violating the conditions of community supervision for life. Martinez is classified as a tier three, or high-risk offender.

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